

REMARKS

This responds to the first Office Action. Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1-29 were pending. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 4-17, 21-23, 26, 27 and 29 remain pending (claims 2, 3, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 28 have been canceled).

Allowable Claims

The Examiner indicated that claims 3, 8-11, 13-16, 18, 21 and 29 define patentable subject matter. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 (and dependent claims 4-8 and 12), and claims 9-11, 13, 14 (and dependent claim 15), 16, 17, 21 and 29 are in condition for allowance based upon the amendments made herein.

Rejected Claims

Claims 22 and 23

Independent claim 22 has been amended to include subject matter found in original claims 24 and 25 (claims 24 and 25 have been canceled). Claims 24 and 25 were rejected according to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Barden '295. It is respectfully submitted that claim 22 defines over Barden '295.

Claim 22 defines an attachment that comprises a body, first and second ribs connected to the body, and first and second pins. First and second sleeves are rotatably positioned on the first and second pins. The first and second sleeves each comprise first and second bearing surfaces that are *oriented outwardly away from each other and that are located adjacent and adapted for sliding engagement with the first and second ribs, respectively*. A first seal projects *outwardly from the first bearing surface for sealingly engaging the first rib*, and a second seal projects *outwardly from the second bearing surface for sealingly engaging the second rib*.

In Barden '295, each sleeve includes first and second seals that *seal against the pin* and not against the ribs. This is highly undesirable in that the seals prevent lubricating grease from flowing outwardly past the seals into the region where the

sleeve ends slidably about the ribs. Also, the same area (between the opposite ends of the sleeve and the ribs) is open to ingress of dirt and debris. The result in the system of Barden '295 is premature wear.

As such, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 22 and dependent claim 23 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 26 and 27

Claims 26 and dependent 27 were rejected according to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Barden '295. Claim 27 was also rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese '818.

Claim 26 defines a sleeve for connection to an attachment pin that comprises, among other features, first and second spacers connected to opposite first and second ends of the tubular portion. The first and second spacers define respective *first and second bearing surfaces that face outwardly away from each other*. First and second seals are *connected to the first and second spacers and overhang the first and second bearing surfaces, respectively*.

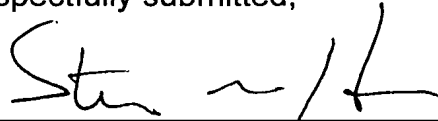
It is respectfully submitted that neither the Barden '295 document nor Japanese '818 document discloses or suggests the structure defined by claims 26 and 27. As noted above, Barden '295 discloses an different sealing arrangement that has been deemed suboptimal. Japanese '818 does not disclose any sealing arrangement and, in fact, *the sleeve only partially surrounds the pin so that sealing is not possible*.

As such, it is respectfully submitted that claims 26 and 27 are also in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

It is submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and that this application meets all other statutory requirements. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven M. Haas", written over a horizontal line.

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